

The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Number 3

Issue 1

January 2011

Another year has become history and we are once again proud to share our activities and accomplishments of 2010 in this third annual newsletter.

Our New History Book: Our newest publication, the *The Beechwood Settlers*, hit the market in May 2010. Author Patricia Peltz did a remarkable job of choosing pictures and historical data from her life-long collection to compile this book. Pat has donated all the proceeds from this book to our society. We cannot thank her enough for all her time and efforts. The book is available for \$35 at the website cliffordpa.com or at Clifford Supply.

Burdick Cemetery Cleanup: One beautiful day in May the Burdick Cemetery was "attacked" by over 50 community volunteers, including Bruce Stephens and the Susquehanna County Cemetery Restoration Committee with assistance from members of our Historical Society and descendants of the pioneer Burdick families. The cleanup was initiated by Keith Smith and Jason Elliot as their Forest City High School senior class project. Headstones were righted, sunken graves filled with dirt, trees cut, brush removed, gates painted and the stone walls repaired. It's amazing what can be accomplished when people care enough to lend a hand and work together for a good cause.

The old Burdick Cemetery was neglected for many years.



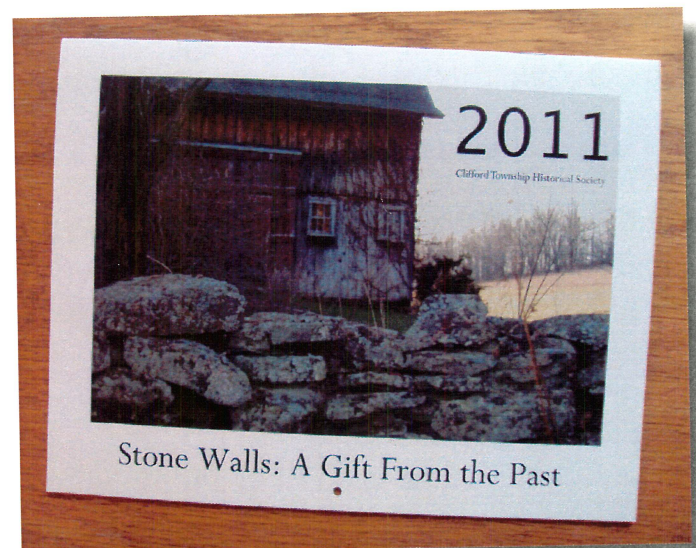
Volunteers work to reset toppled gravestones.



Elkdale Cemetery Stone Wall Repair Project

Stone Wall Repair Seminar: In August we hosted Ken Ely, Commonwealth Speaker of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, to teach the art of stone wall repair. After Mr. Ely's slideshow and demonstration, 35 volunteers tried their hand at using their newly learned skills to repair a 130-foot portion of the stone wall that surrounds the Elkdale Cemetery. Denis Halstead will continue with the repair of the cemetery walls for his senior school project and his Eagle Scout award.

2011 Stone Wall Calendar: Motivated by his love of stone walls, board member Larry Wilson produced our 2011 calendar *Stone Walls: A Gift From the Past*. This full color calendar highlights the beauty of our area walls with the hope that they will be protected and preserved.



The 2011 fund-raising calendars are available for \$10 at Clifford Supply and on the merchandise page of our website cliffordpa.com.



Hoover School Open House: The Hoover School was open to the public the third Sunday of each month May through October. Every month visitors came from far and wide to ring the old school bell, share stories of their youth and learn about the history of our area. The Mountain



View Garden Club planted flowers around the school, beautifying the landscape. Shirley Granger graciously donated an outhouse to the Hoover School project. The outhouse was originally purchased by her family from the West Clifford one-room school for \$10 and was considered an "upgrade" from their previous outhouse.

Municipal Building Hallway Lease: The Clifford Township supervisors and the Historical Society entered into a 25-year lease of the hallway areas of the township municipal building. The Historical Society will use the hallway area to display some of the historical items that have been donated to the society. In preparation, local contractor Jerry Lewandowski, assisted by 24 volunteers and Historical Society members, installed ceramic tile flooring in the entire hallway of the municipal building. The township supervisors supplied the materials.

Future Projects: In 2011, the society plans to host another stonewall seminar at the Burdick Cemetery in May. In addition, signs at the Burdick and Elkdale cemeteries will be installed. We are very proud of the work that has been done to clean up the neglected cemeteries in our area. The hard work, sacrifices and accomplishments of the folks now resting in these cemeteries are not forgotten!

The Hoover School will again be open on the third Sunday of the months May through October from 1 to 4 pm. Many new items of local historical interest have been added to our displays. Free brochures are available next to the front door of the school. Please take one as you pass by.

The original flag pole from the Clifford one-room school will be installed in front of the Hoover School this year. The outhouse will also be operational for our open house visitors.

Our first goal for the museum displays in the municipal building is to build a display area for the Native American dugout canoe that was donated to us in 2007. This display will be in the front entrance of the building. A 5' x 20' wall mural of Mud Pond (where the canoe was found), lighting, special effects, the dugout canoe and a plexiglass enclosure will complete the project. We are very excited about this project. We feel it will be a unique and impressive display of our local history.

Website: Hillview Inc. will continue to provide information about our society at www.cliffordpa.com. Meeting information, society activities and accomplishments and merchandise available for sale are all contained on this website. Emails and "the wanderlist" sent directly to your inbox from Hillview Inc. will also keep you abreast of our activities. The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau Room Tax Grant Program helps defray the cost of our website.

We hope that you are proud to be a part of our active Historical Society. As always, we are open to your suggestions, donations and contributions of historical items. The membership form below can be used to send us your 911 address. We are always looking to grow our membership base, so please feel free to share this membership form with a friend. Thank you for your interest and continued support.

- Sandra Wilmot, Society President
- Larry Wilson, Board Chairman
- Ruth Knighton, Treasurer
- Marvis Searle, Secretary
- Board of Directors: Carol Gargan, Fred Lyon,
Linda Parlanti, Patricia Peltz, John Swetter,
Sandra Wilmot, Larry Wilson



Clifford Township Historical Society 2011 Membership

Levels: Individual \$10 Family \$25 Lifetime \$100

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to:
 CTHS
 c/o Marvis Searle
 P. O. Box 161
 Clifford PA 18413